

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claim 9 and amend claims 1, 10-12, 15 and 31 as follows:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A communication system comprising:
2 an IP-enabled communication network;
3 at least one remote site connected to the communication network, the
4 remote site comprising:
5 (a) a plurality of subscribers,
6 (b) a switch interconnecting the plurality of subscribers,
7 (c) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the
8 switch, each multi-line hunt group comprising a
9 plurality of voice communication lines and at least one
10 signaling line carrying signaling data, and
11 (d) a gateway receiving the plurality of voice
12 communication lines and the at least one signaling line
13 for each multi-line hunt group, the gateway interfacing
14 each multi-line hunt group and the communication
15 network; and
16 at least one service site connected to the communication network, the
17 service site comprising:
18 (e) a service platform providing voice services;
19 (f) a switch connected to the service platform;
20 (g) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the
21 switch, and
22 (h) a gateway interfacing each multi-line hunt group and
23 the communication network.
- 1 2. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2 service platform comprises a voicemail platform.

1 3. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2 service platform comprises a unified messaging platform.

1 4. (canceled)

1 5. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2 communication network carries voice over IP (VoIP).

1 6. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2 communication network carries voice over frame relay (VoFR).

1 7. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2 communication network carries voice over ATM (VoATM).

1 8. (canceled)

1 9. (canceled)

1 10. (currently amended) A communication system as in claim 1
2 ~~claim 9~~ wherein each gateway converts voice received over communication lines and
3 the signaling data received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by
4 the communication network.

1 11. (currently amended) A communication system as in claim 1
2 ~~claim 9~~ wherein each gateway converts line signaling protocols into a format
3 acceptable by the communication network and passes the converted line signaling
4 protocols to at least one service site.

1 12. (currently amended) A communication system as in claim 1
2 ~~claim 9~~ wherein each gateway implements a tunneling scheme with at least one
3 gateway at a different site to exchange the signaling data.

1 13. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each
2 gateway compresses and decompresses voice information for reduced communication
3 network bandwidth.

1 14. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each
2 gateway performs DS-0 mapping to map individual hunt group members across the
3 communication network.

1 15. (currently amended) A communication system for transmitting
2 audible messages over an IP-enabled communication network comprising:
3 a locality of subscriber units;
4 a switch interconnecting the subscriber units, the switch routing traffic
5 outside of the locality of subscriber units over at least one multi-line hunt group, each
6 multi-line hunt group including a plurality of voice communication lines and at least
7 one signaling line carrying signaling data associated with calls through the plurality
8 of voice communication lines; and
9 a gateway in communication with each multi-line hunt group and the
10 communication network, the gateway converting voice information received over
11 each communication line and signaling data received over each signaling line into a
12 data format acceptable by the communication network.

1 16. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway formats data for voice over IP (VoIP).

1 17. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway formats data for voice over frame relay network (VoFR).

1 18. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway formats data for voice over ATM (VoATM).

1 19. (canceled)

1 20. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway implements a tunneling scheme with at least one gateway at a different site
3 to exchange signaling data.

1 21. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway compresses and decompresses voice information for reduced communication
3 network bandwidth.

1 22. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway performs DS-0 mapping to map individual hunt group members across the
3 communication network.

1 23. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network comprising:
3 receiving information from at least one of a plurality of subscribers;
4 determining at least one of a plurality of voice communication lines
5 and at least one signaling line in a multi-line hunt group to carry the received
6 information and associated signaling;
7 formatting information on each of the voice communication lines and
8 signaling lines into a format compatible with the communication network; and
9 sending the formatted information over the communication network.

1 24. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 further comprising:

3 receiving the formatted information over the communication network;
4 reformatting the converted information back into the original format
5 for transmission over at least one of a plurality of voice communication lines and at
6 least one signaling line in a multi-line hunt group; and
7 sending the reformatted information over a multi-line hunt group.

1 25. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the reformatted information is sent
3 to a service platform comprising a voicemail platform.

1 26. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the reformatted information is sent
3 to a service platform comprising a unified messaging platform.

1 27. (canceled)

1 28. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries
3 voice over IP (VoIP).

1 29. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries
3 voice over frame relay (VoFR).

1 30. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries
3 voice over ATM (VoATM).

1 31. (currently amended) A communication system comprising:
2 an IP-enabled communication network;

3 at least one remote site connected to the communication network, the
4 remote site comprising:

- 5 (a) a plurality of subscribers,
- 6 (b) a switch interconnecting the plurality of subscribers,
- 7 (c) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the
8 switch, each multi-line hunt group comprising a
9 plurality of voice communication lines and at least one
10 signaling line carrying signaling data, and
11 (d) at least one wide area network access device
12 interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the
13 communication network; and

14 at least one service site connected to the communication network, the
15 service site comprising:

- 16 (e) a service platform providing voice services;
- 17 (f) a switch connected to the service platform;
- 18 (g) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the
19 switch, and
- 20 (h) at least one wide area network access device
21 interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the
22 communication network.

1 32. (new) A communication system for transmitting audible
2 messages over an IP-enabled communication network comprising:

- 3 a locality of subscriber units;
- 4 a switch interconnecting the subscriber units, the switch routing traffic
5 outside of the locality of subscriber units over at least one multi-line hunt group, each
6 multi-line hunt group including a plurality of voice communication lines and at least
7 one signaling line carrying signaling data; and

8 at least one wide area network access device in communication with
9 each multi-line hunt group and the communication network, the wide area network

- 10 access device converting voice information received over each communication line
- 11 and signaling data received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by
- 12 the communication network.